

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is the only claim pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim 11 defines patentable subject matter.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,377; hereafter “Yamada”) in view of Rich (U.S. Patent No. 4,102,040). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious in view of the Examiner’s proposed combination of Yamada and Rich.

In the Office Action dated January 19, 2007, the Examiner asserts that Yamada discloses all of the features of the claimed invention except for “a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core” and the cylindrical core made of iron. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Yamada discloses the claimed notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of only some of the slots because “as seen in Fig. 2, every slot has a notch portion except for the slot with the welded portion.”

In the Advisory Action dated April 18, 2006 Response, the Examiner further asserts:

the two ends of the core do not form a notch when they are welded together. The two ends of the core form a slit that extends all the way through the stator core, and the weld that connects the two ends together is not a [notch] portion of core.

It is also noted that the recitation of the notch portions being provided in “only some of the slots” is not a positive recitation of the stator core comprising slots that lack a notch portion. Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary defines “some” as: “Being part and perhaps all of a class.” Therefore, even if the

AMENDMENT

U.S. Application No. 10/635,611

welded portion of the core of Yamada were a notch, which it is not, it would still meet the limitation of notch portions being included in “only some of the slots.”

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and a plurality of notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of some, but not all, of the slots;

...

wherein each of the notch portions comprises a linear slit extending partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

Thus, in the claimed invention which corresponds to the embodiment shown in FIG. 15 of the application, the notch portions (20) are provided in some, but not all, of the slots. Further, the notch portions extend partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combined references do not teach or suggest at least the claimed “plurality of notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of some, but not all, of the slots.” In particular, Yamada discloses that both ends of the developed core (12) are welded together at an outer circumferential surface to form an annular core (11). By welding the portion the ends of the core, a notch portion extending partially through the core in the radial direction is formed (i.e., the welded portion prevents the notch from extending all the way

AMENDMENT  
U.S. Application No. 10/635,611

through the core). Thus, contrary to the Examiner's position, notch portions are formed in all of the slots of Yamada's core.

Further, Rich fails to teach or suggest the claimed notch portions which are missing from Yamada.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 should be allowable because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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